

Those in this audience who are charged with responsibility for developing firemen's training programs are urged to plan presentations in the important subject area of staff and command training for fire officers, as well as to continue to expand training in the basics. I am pleased to announce that my State is taking the leadership in arranging a National Fire Service Staff and Command School, to be held July 20 through July 31, this year. This will be conducted in the Fire Service Extension facility at the University of Maryland. It is being sponsored jointly by the Fire Service Extension Department of the University, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

I mention the staff and command programs for officers as an illustration of the important fact that as I stand here and take my second look at FDIC the picture appears significantly different. On the debit side of the ledger is the certainty that the annual economic drain of fire losses continues at a higher rate than any of us wish to confess. There is also the significant factor that this world is becoming more complex through modern developments. President Johnson recently emphasized the rapidity of our changing society when he made the statement that 90 per cent of the medicine prescribed by physicians today was not available just 10 years ago. He also said that three-quarters of all the people employed by industry in 1975 will be producing products that are unknown today and which have not yet been invented. This indication of our rapid progress carries a connotation that the problems of the fire service are becoming more severe and more demanding. We must have the answers to problems that did not exist just yesterday.

But, for my second visit, I did not come here like the pessimist who arrived at the ball game and asked, "Who is losing?" I am more interested in what is being done to win the humanitarian crusade against fire losses. So, on the credit side, I see a continuing and expanding realization that knowledge is needed by all levels of fire service responsibility. I suspect that there are more knowledge hungry people in the audience today than attended FDIC when I appeared here in my first year as Governor of Maryland. I can point also to the great increase in the enrollment in the four-year residence fire protection curriculum at the University of Maryland, headed by Professor John L. Bryan. It is significant, I think, that there are more scholarships in this program than in any other at the University. Incidentally, it is gratifying to me to see these fine young men included among those getting Bachelor of Science degrees at commencement